

Remarks

Applicant has reviewed the Office Action dated as mailed November 20, 2006 and the documents cited therewith and the present amendment has been prepared in response thereto. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-12, 14, 17-22 and 58 are allowable. Claim 47 is rejected. Nonelected claims 23-46 and 48-57 have been cancelled.

Claim 11 has been amended to correct the antecedent reference of the claim. Claim 11 having previously been indicated as allowable, it is submitted that claim 11 as amended is allowable. New claims 59, 60 and 61 have been added. Claims 59, 60 and 61 depend from claim 11 and are believed to be allowable as written.

Claim 47 was rejected as being anticipated by Streich et al. The applicant understands the Examiner's position to be that if the case of Streich is slightly ajar, the split rail will act as an abutment to prevent movement of the latch. The claims have been amended to require that the abutment prevents the latch from sliding to an end of the split-rail when the housing members are in the fully closed position. It is submitted that claim 47 defines over the art relied on by the Examiner and that Streich, even as interpreted by the Examiner, does not anticipate claim 47. It is believed that claim 47 is allowable as amended.

It is submitted that the amendments to claims do not raise new issues and that the amendment should be entered. The amendment to claim 11 corrects a minor informality and the amendment to claim 47 clarifies the claim and is intended to eliminate the unintended interpretation suggested by the Examiner. The addition of claims 59, 60 and 61 do not raise new issues as they depend from allowed claim 11. The nonelected claims have been cancelled.

If the Examiner has any questions about the present Amendment a telephone interview is requested.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4365.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Applicant)

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